

Florida to be able to call him one of our own. Indeed, Douglas has made a remarkable impact on the students at Indian Ridge Middle School. His accomplishments are something that both he and the entire state of Florida can be proud of.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SONAM  
ZOKSANG SEEK TO PRESERVE  
TIBETAN CULTURE AND IDEN-  
TITY

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago in the Cannon Rotunda, we had the pleasure of viewing a magnificent exhibit of the photographs of Sonam Zoksang, a Tibetan photographer who has sought to use his photographic art and his considerable skill to preserve Tibetan culture and identity.

Sonam Zoksang was born in the small Tibetan village of Kyirong, but his parents fled to India just a month after he was born. He made the first visit to the country of his birth in 1993 when he was 33 years old. As a result of that visit, he made it his goal to capture the devastation that his people have experienced on film for all the world to see. Since that first visit to Tibet in 1993, he has been compelled to return each year.

Mr. Speaker, over the last seven years, Mr. Zoksang has seen the situation in Tibet worsen dramatically. The Chinese government has given incentives to non-Tibetan Han Chinese to encourage them to move into Tibet, and increasingly this has made Tibetans a minority in their own land. The growth in Chinese immigrants has increased Sonam's greatest concern for the future of Tibet—the children. He states that in "addition to all the problems they have in common with Tibetans in general, there is little or no educational opportunity for them in Tibet. Every year hundreds of Tibetan children risk their lives to escape to India, crossing the Himalayas on foot in the frigid winter to taste the air of freedom."

In explaining his photographs, Sonam Zoksang said: "I feel very strongly that many young Tibetans have no hope, no dreams, and no future to live for. No Tibetans seem to be truly happy with their situation, and moreover, they feel threatened with their very extinction." In an effort to preserve the culture of the Tibetan people, Sonam Zoksang has risked his life to document the changes taking place inside Tibet. The Chinese would refuse him a visa to enter the Country, so he has had to risk his life and his freedom in order to record through his photographs the traditional culture and the rapid and systematic way in which it is being destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sonam Zoksang for his outstanding photographs and the great contribution which his work has made to preserve Tibetan culture and to strengthen the identity of the Tibetan people.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO HILLTOP—50 YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Hilltop Community Resources Inc., an organization that provides a range of invaluable services to the residents of Mesa County who are in need of special assistance and care, as they celebrate their 50th birthday. In recognition of this tremendous landmark and Hilltop's considerable efforts to improve life for those who are less fortunate, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this tremendous organization.

Hilltop originated as the Mesa County Society for Crippled Children and Adults in 1950, offering outpatient services for people with disabilities. In the time since, Hilltop has incorporated a number of helpful services to assist its patients with their ailments and needs. Hilltop creates independent living communities that provide care and comfort for their citizens and offer the Elder Care/Assisted Living program that ensures elderly residents the opportunity to stay active in their daily lifestyle with the assistance of the Hilltop staff. In all, Hilltop can be credited with helping over 12,000 Mesa County residents a year.

One notable person who has had a dramatic impact on the success of Hilltop is its current Chief Executive Officer, Sally Schaefer. Sally has been the driving force behind Hilltop's dedicated effort to put forth a helping hand to needy citizens in the Grand Valley for nearly two decades. She has initiated numerous outreach programs and, most notably, created a 158-unit retirement and assisted living facility. Ms. Schaefer's care and compassion for those in need of assistance is evident in the effort she has put forth during her career at Hilltop. Her hard work and dedication are emblematic of the role that Hilltop plays in the Grand Junction community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a wonderful privilege and honor to salute the 50th anniversary of Hilltop Community Resources Inc. I am proud to represent a district that has an organization of this stature within its boundaries. The invaluable services that Hilltop provides bring joy and dignity to the lives of the less fortunate, offering them hope and putting a smile on their face.

TRIBUTE TO DUSTY BUSS

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend Dusty Buss for his efforts that helped save the life of 7-year-old Tia Creasy. Dusty, a 16-year-old sophomore at Brown County High School in Mt. Sterling, IL, was dropping his sister off at school as Cathy Creasy was dropping off her daughter, Tia, in front of him.

*June 9, 2000*

As Cathy drove away she was unaware that Tia's jacket was caught in the door causing her to begin dragging her daughter alongside the car. On seeing this Dusty got out of his car and was able to get in front of Cathy's car before serious injuries could occur.

Dusty did a very honorable and courageous act. I am very proud of his Good Samaritan attitude, which makes him a hero to us all.

IN HONOR OF THE WOOD FAMILY,  
THE TOWN OF HARRISON, NJ  
FAMILY OF THE YEAR

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great family—a great American family. The Wood family is being honored as the family of the year by the Town of Harrison, New Jersey, and I am very proud to honor them for their contribution to their community.

The Harrison Family of the year has its roots in the Martin family originally from Brooklyn, NY and the Wood family originally from Newark. Robert and Rachel Martin's family has lived in the Town of Harrison since 1910, and William and Esther Wood's family since 1919.

After Robert and Rachel's daughter, Margaret, met William and Esther's son, Harold, in 1938, they were married, and began a family.

Harold and Margaret Wood had eight girls and four boys. Of their twelve children, five still live in Harrison. Harrison is currently home to five of Margaret's children, seven grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. In all, Margaret has thirty-two grandchildren and forty great grandchildren.

The Wood children have an enduring love for this country, a love instilled in them by their father, Harold Wood who, having served in the Navy in WWII, understood the power and value of community and patriotism. He lived in Harrison all his life until his death in 1996.

For the pride they show in America, and for the contributions they have made to the Town of Harrison, New Jersey, I honor and praise the Wood family.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Wood family for being the Town of Harrison's family of the year.

RECOGNIZING GUAM POLICE DE-  
PARTMENT'S POLICE OFFICER  
OF THE YEAR AND CIVILIAN OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to recognize Guam Police Department's Police Officer of the Year and Civilian of the Year. These awards are presented annually to the top employees of the Guam Police Department (GPD). Police